

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application as amended. Claims 1, 6, 9, 12, 18, and 21 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled or added. Therefore, claims 1-23 are presented for examination.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) Rejection

Claims 1-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nordstrom et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,078,970) in view of Weber et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,480,901). Applicants submit that the present claims are patentable over Nordstrom in view of Weber.

Nordstrom discloses a system to provide efficient determination of which of a plurality of I/O adapters sharing a common interrupt line actually presented an interrupt signal, to thereby avoid multiple loads from I/O adapters. The system expands and improves upon conventional command and response queues by having the central processor utilize local, main memory to access and service the queues by distributing the I/O bus traversal burden to the I/O adapters. (Nordstrom at col. 6, lines 16-32.)

Weber discloses a system and method for monitoring and managing devices on a network. More specifically, the system and method include a proxy server connected to the network and a managed device connected to the proxy server. Also disclosed is a storage means for storing a device management application program associated with the managed device, and a management station in communication with the managed device via the proxy server and in communication with the storage means. As the management station processes

the device management application program, the management station is able to monitor and manage the managed device. (Weber at col. 2, lines 22-36.)

Claim 1, as amended, recites:

A method comprising:
receiving a connectivity capability structure of a device;
receiving a list of connection records for the device; and
determining connectivity information for the device based on the connectivity capability structure and the list of connection records.

Applicants submit that Nordstrom does not disclose or suggest determining connectivity information for the device based on a connectivity capability structure and a list of connection records. The Office Action cites col. 2, lines 1-15 of Nordstrom as generally disclosing “how designs are present for obtaining network information from the PCI devices.” (Office Action at page. 2, point 1.) However, this portion of Nordstrom does not disclose or suggest determining connectivity information for the device based on a connectivity capability structure and a list of connection records. Nor can applicants find any disclosure or suggestion of such a feature elsewhere in Nordstrom. Therefore, Nordstrom does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1.

Furthermore, Weber also does not disclose or suggest determining connectivity information for the device based on a connectivity capability structure and a list of connection records. The Office Action does not address where in Weber this feature may be disclosed. The Office Action does state that “object graphs” in Weber “hold data about nodes and the locations of those nodes.” (Page 3, point 1.) However, applicants cannot find such a description of “object graphs” anywhere in Weber, nor does such a description assist in disclosing the cited feature of claim 1 of the present application. Applicants can find no

disclosure or suggestion in Weber of determining connectivity information for the device based on a connectivity capability structure and a list of connection records. Therefore, Weber does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1.

As neither Nordstrom nor Weber disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, any combination of Nordstrom and Weber also would not disclose or suggest those features. Therefore, claim 1 is patentable over Nordstrom in view of Weber.

Claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and include additional limitations. As a result, claims 2-5 are also patentable over Nordstrom in view of Weber.

Claims 6, 9, 12, 18, and 21, as amended, also recite, in part, determining connectivity information for the device based on a connectivity capability structure and a list of connection records. As discussed above, neither Nordstrom nor Weber disclose or suggest such a feature. Therefore, claims 6, 9, 12, 18, and 21 are patentable over Nordstrom in view of Weber for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 7-8, 10-11, 13-14, 19-20, and 22-23 depend from claims 6, 9, 12, 18, and 21, respectively, and include additional limitations. As a result, claims 7-8, 10-11, 13-14, 19-20, and 22-23 are also patentable over Nordstrom in view of Weber.

Claim 15 recites:

An apparatus comprising:
a processor; and
a memory coupled to the processor, the memory comprising:
data on a capability identification of a first device coupled to the processor;
data on a pointer to a next capability structure of a second device coupled to the processor;
data on a connectivity type for the first device;
data on a number of connectivity ports for the first device; and
data on the location of a number of connection

records for the first device.

Applicants submit that Nordstrom does not disclose or suggest memory including data on the connectivity type and the number of connectivity ports for a device. Applicants cannot find any disclosure or suggestion in Nordstrom of such a feature. Therefore, Nordstrom does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 15.

Furthermore, Weber does not disclose or suggest such a feature. The Office Action cites the “object graphs” of Weber as “a data object that contains information concerning elements and locations of those elements.” (Office Action at page. 19, point 15.) However, the only description of “object graphs” found in Weber states that they keep and maintain an internal representation of managed entities. (Weber at col. 23, lines 12-14.) This is not the same as a memory including data on a connectivity type and the number of connectivity ports for a device, nor is there any disclosure elsewhere in Weber of such a feature. Therefore, Weber does not disclose or suggest the feature of claim 15.

As neither Nordstrom nor Weber disclose or suggest the features of claim 15, any combination of Nordstrom and Weber also would not disclose or suggest those features. Therefore, claim 15 is patentable over Nordstrom in view of Weber.

Claims 16 and 17 depend from claim 15 and include additional limitations. As a result, claims 16 and 17 are also patentable over Nordstrom in view of Weber.

Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections have been overcome and that the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at (303) 740-1980 if there remains any issue with allowance of the case.

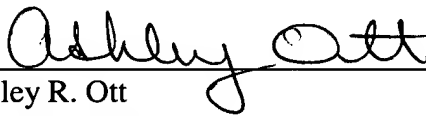
Applicants respectfully petition for an extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) should one be necessary. Please charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 to cover the necessary fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a) for such an extension.

Please charge any shortage to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Date: March 22, 2005



Ashley R. Ott
Reg. No. 55,515

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
7th Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025-1026
(303) 740-1980